



QUEENSLAND AUXILIARY FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION INC.

President

Rodger Sambrooks

Secretary

Adrian S Williams

Date: 06 August 2015

Di Farmer MP

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Parliament House

**George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000**

email: fac@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Farmer

Re: Inquiries into the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* and *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Firefighters) Amendment Bill 2015*

Summary:

Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association (QAFA) supports the concept of Presumptive Legislation for all Queensland Firefighters, in particular, Auxiliary Firefighters.

Both Bills under consideration include similar eligibility for Auxiliary Firefighters and we are thankful for that inclusion and recognition.

There are differences in the Bills which highlight potential discrimination towards Rural Firefighters. i.e. Mandatory attendance at 150 incidents before becoming eligible.

Background:

Auxiliary Firefighters perform the same tasks as full-time firefighters and are therefore exposed to the same level of risk. In fact, Auxiliaries potentially face more rates of exposure because they are not subject to the limitations of shiftwork where full-time staff only respond to incidents occurring on their shift. Auxiliaries can potentially respond to all incidents - and often do - in their community .

In regional Queensland, Auxiliary Firefighters work closely with their Rural Volunteer counterparts. Rural Firefighters respond to most Urban incidents providing essential support such as water capacity and additional trained manpower.

In many communities, Auxiliaries are also Rurals and are sometimes SES members as well. Same people - different rules for the same incident that 'may' lead to the Firefighter getting one of the specified Cancers.

In smaller communities, mandatory attendance at 150 calls as a prerequisite before the standard eligibility starts would appear to be discriminatory.

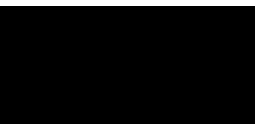
At least one other Sate has analyzed the financial exposure to Government as being far below the stated level and lifted the eligibility restrictions on Volunteers

Recommendations:

With regard to Rural Firefighters, review the Bill with the requirement for mandatory attendance at 150 incidents before Rural Volunteers become eligible.

Remove the requirement for attendance at 150 incidents for Rural Firefighters

Yours faithfully



Adrian Williams

State Secretary

